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General and complete disarmament

Follow-up to the advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons*

Note by the Secretary-General

Addendum

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II. Information received from Governments

Malaysia

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1. Malaysia is firm in its conviction that the 8 July 1996 advisory opinion of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) on the *Legality of the Threat or Use of Nuclear Weapons* was and remains an important and historic decision in the field of nuclear disarmament. It should be given due recognition and followed up. In this regard, as a major effort in acknowledging the ICJ advisory opinion and in pursuance of its commitment towards nuclear disarmament, Malaysia had initiated a draft resolution at the fifty-first session of the General Assembly in 1996. It has continued to coordinate efforts in submitting the draft resolution on the advisory opinion for the consideration consideration of Member States at the General Assembly every year in the belief that States supporting multilateral negotiations eventually leading to the global elimination of nuclear weapons will have no reason to oppose the resolution, as it seeks to do exactly that in the long-term.

2. It is clear from the advisory opinion of the ICJ that States have a legal obligation not only to pursue in good faith but also to bring negotiations leading to nuclear disarmament in all its aspects to an early conclusion. This is consistent with the solemn obligation made by States parties under article VI of the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons to pursue in good faith negotiations on effective measures relating to nuclear disarmament and their determined pursuit of systematic and progressive efforts to reduce nuclear weapons globally, with the ultimate goal of the elimination of those weapons as well as the recently pronounced unequivocal undertaking by the nuclear-weapon States to accomplish the total elimination of their nuclear arsenals leading to nuclear disarmament. Malaysia considers the unanimous opinion of the World Court on the existence of this obligation as a clear basis for follow-up actions by Members of this Organization in their determined efforts to rid the world of nuclear weapons.

3. Malaysia also continues to support the establishment of zones of peace and nuclear-weapon-free zones in various parts of the world to help create conditions conducive to peace and stability and to promote regional confidence-building. The establishment of these zones is seen as an important measure that would greatly assist in deterring the spread of nuclear weapons and in promoting nuclear disarmament.

4. Malaysia has signed the following nuclear disarmament Conventions:

(a) Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, in 1968, and ratified it in 1970. the Non-Proliferation Treaty represents a global effort to prevent the proliferation of nuclear weapons;

(b) The Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, on 23 July 1998. Malaysia supports the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty, which is an important step forward in the nuclear disarmament process, and is taking steps to ratify it. We would urge, in particular, the 44 States listed in annex 2 to the Treaty to ratify the Treaty so as to ensure its entry into force.